

The Boomer

Vol. 51, No. 3

459th Air Refueling Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve, Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

March 2006

Stars shine at wing awards banquet!



The Boomer

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On the cover



The 459th MPF won the Civilian Team of the Year award at the 459th ARW Awards Banquet. (Photo by Capt. Nikki Credic).

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COMMENTARY

Differing cultures, same passion

Commander's Corner

By Brig. Gen. John Pray, Jr.
89th Airlift Wing Commander



We just concluded our Annual Awards Ceremony and I had the honor of publicly recognizing the "best of the best" in the 89th Airlift Wing. As you might imagine, it was a fun and exciting celebration of professional excellence.

As I welcomed Col. Stayce Harris and Chief Master Sgt. Patti Hickman to our event, I reflected on how lucky we are to have the talented men and women that make up the 459th Air Refueling Wing as a part of what we euphemistically refer to as "Team Andrews."

Not surprisingly, I felt compelled to take a moment to recognize publicly the many lasting contributions that you, our reserve partners, make daily to the success of one of the Air Force's most diverse operational bases.

I have grown up in the mobility business and through the associate program have seen how we blend our active and reserve components into a seamless team bound by a common purpose.

While our cultures may be a bit different, we share a similar passion for this country and all that it stands for.

It is this combination of passion and diversity that makes us a stronger and more capable force ... it is true, "no one comes close."

As a commander, I know I cannot say thank you often enough ... recognizing the staggering number of individual and team accomplishments that happen around this base every day is an impossible task, but as a leader I know it is one of my most important responsibilities to try to do so.

So, thank you for all you do to make Team Andrews such a vibrant community and productive partnership ... your professional excellence is both noticed and sincerely appreciated.



Clergy Day



Brig. Gen. John Pray, Jr.

cordially requests that you invite your civilian "Pastor" to Clergy Day at Andrews Air Force Base, Wednesday, May 3, 2006.

A letter of invitation from General Pray is available from your unit chaplain's office.

Clergy Day includes a tour of Air Force Two, a flight on a KC-135 jet refueling tanker, and a complimentary lunch at The Club At Andrews. This is a whole day event from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

To register, please send confirmation on the clergy member's official letterhead to Mrs. Grubb at 1345 West Perimeter Rd., Andrews AFB, MD 20762 by April 15, 2006. Please include your social security number to obtain base and flight access.

***Professional clergy from all faiths are welcome! For more information, please call Chapel 1 at (301) 981-2111.**

Enlisted call: Airmen and NCOs want more mentoring

Command Chief Corner

**Chief Master Sgt.
Patti Hickman
Command Chief**



I'd like to thank all of the members who participated in the Enlisted Call Sunday, Feb 26, and all of the commanders and supervisors for allowing them to attend.

Hopefully everyone enjoyed it as much as I did! The Airmen (E-1 thru E-4) went first at 10:30 a.m. and wow did they have a lot to

say! Meaningful, hands-on training is number one on their priority list. Our Airmen want to be mentored! They want NCOs and Senior NCOs to be more organized and help develop them into better Airmen.

I met with the NCOs next at 11:30 a.m. and they had many of the same concerns. Promotions seem to be big on their list. They feel they are meeting all of the requirements and are not receiving feedback from their supervisors as to why they are not being promoted. NCOs also want to be mentored and developed into SNCOs. They want the UTAs to be more organized when they re-

port for duty and feel they are scheduled for too many appointments at the same time and are confused as to which appointment takes priority.

Senior NCOs reported at 12:30 p.m. and didn't have as much to say. I basically shared the list of concerns from the two previous meetings with the Airman and NCOs and let them know that it starts with us, the Senior NCOs.

Overall, the meetings went great and I will be looking into the many concerns and suggestions from the troops. Thank you again to all who participated!



FLIGHTLINE

Question: What is the best military advice that you have received?



Col. Winona Cason, 459 MSG "Find a good senior NCO and learn from them."



Senior Airman Jessica Durand, 459 AES "Always do the right thing even in the tough situations."



Master Sgt. Randall Userry, 459 RS "Always prepare yourself for your next career move ahead of time."



Staff Sgt. Evyette Turner, 459 RS "CYA-do it right the first time and have your proof."



Capt. Melisa Vines, 459 ARW "Treat everyone with respect."

Liberators take hard road to the playoffs

By Capt. Tim Smith
Wing Public Affairs

The 459th Air Refueling Wing basketball team's 2005/2006 season started off a bit shaky, but perseverance was the team's key to ending the regular season on a positive note.

The 459th Liberators literally dribbled their way into the playoffs, with a just above .500 record (5-4).

The fact that they're in the post season is no surprise to the Liberators' coach Tech. Sgt. Trenton Holmes, 459th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. He said they've reached the playoffs each year for the past five years. And even though the team's season was up and down, he believes they will have a big impact in the playoffs.

"For a long time

the 459th has always been the team to beat," said Sergeant Holmes. "Mitch Berry (459th AMXS) is back, and he's the one who really gets the team going. He's a veteran player."

The team is stocked with a roster of good players including reservists, retirees and civilians. But due to TDYs, injuries and schedule conflicts, the Liberators have not been able to unleash their full arsenal against their opponents each time they took the court.

"It's definitely a learning experience," said Staff Sgt. Larry Anderson, 459th Aero-medical Staging Squadron.

"We faced a lot of adversity. We had half of our players most of the time, and we had a lot of new faces."

Acquiring new faces meant acquiring new talent, so they had to work a little harder to build or maintain the team chemistry that takes them to the playoffs each year. They succeeded.

"As a matter of fact, we've always been the number two team for the past couple of years," said Sergeant Anderson.

This year, they're shooting to change that. Coach Holmes thinks they have a pretty good shot at taking it all the way. "I'm looking to get to the championship. And I honestly believe we will get there and we'll be a hard team to beat."

Only two teams have beaten them this season ... the defending champions, Marine Aircraft Group 49, and the runner up, 89th Communications Group-A. Each



team beat them twice. However, the Liberators were within reach of victory, but just ran out of gas at the end of the game.

"We'll be able to get around that," said Sergeant Holmes. "What we do well is play a good first half. We have seven or eight guys and they just get worn out. But it's the playoffs. Expect everyone to step up."

Sergeant Holmes said it would also be nice if everyone could show up. The team actually has 11 players, but for various reasons all of them can't make it to the games.

But their spirit has been high throughout the season ... every season. Now their collective focus matches their spirit, and they're ready to meet the challenge.

The Liberators were a tough team to beat, and they won their first game of the playoffs this season. But they eventually fell to double elimination, losing in the final seconds of each game.

(Left) Staff Sgt. Duane Hill dribbles on the court. (Top right) Staff Sgt. Larry Anderson jumps during a layup shot against the 89th APS. (Photos by Capt. Tim Smith).



Reservist by weekend, entrepreneur by day

Story by Staff Sgt. Natasha Suber
Wing Public Affairs

Each year you tell yourself that this is your year to take the plunge into small business. No longer will you be accountable for the mistakes of others; no longer will smiling colleagues receive credit for your job well done; and more importantly no more guilt for placing the needs of your family above the demands of your job. You'll be the master of your own time, projects, and destiny.

Yet, another year passes and the numerous ideas that you have for a small enterprise take a seat on the back burner once again. Is it timing? Is it lack of start-up capital or support on the home front? Or just maybe these are all excuses that cover the most common killer of entrepreneurial aspirations - fear.

That's right, fear. While we all may get frustrated with the limits and confines of our jobs, we all know that the security of a steady income and the comfort of doing what we've always done goes a long way. At least until that same gumption and courage, of your inner-self, which stirred you to "cross into the blue," becomes ignited. Is it starting to rev up now? No worries! You are not the only one. A number of 459th Air Refueling Wing Airmen have taken the plunge, "crossed into entrepreneurship," and are now finding success.

Tech. Sgt. Peggy Wilkins of the 459th Aerospace Medicine Squadron has operated what she calls her "mini-business," "That's-A-Wrap" for the past six years. Starting from home with two to three steady clients, she now serves approximately 30 steady clients in addition to a consistent flow of new clients from her sister's family owned grocery store. Offering gift wrapping, personal gift baskets, and special wedding gifts, Sergeant Wilkins has found juggling her business and reserve obligations quite easy as her high peak seasons are during the holidays.

However, like most, the biggest challenges were faced in the start-up process. Despite running into obstacles in finding sources of financing, Sergeant Wilkins has not deterred from her dream. Rather than quit, she decided to fund her business through her own personal finances and has found it to be that much more rewarding.

Her advice: "Stop dreaming, and get doing. If you have a dream, take it and run. What seems 'mini' to me today could grow into something large tomorrow."

Like Sergeant Wilkins, Senior Airman James Boyd of the 459th Communications Squadron is finding great personal reward

and definitely copyright your company name."

Sergeant Wilkins and Senior Airman Boyd are just a few of the wing's small business owners. The list goes on with a trendy ice cream franchise owner and other service companies offering home remodeling, real estate brokerage, aircraft inspection, tutoring services, and more.

So, if you've been inspired by the courage of your colleagues, it's time to hustle and take the first step. Where? The Small Business Administration is usually the first pit stop after you have formulated your idea. The administration's SCORE counselors are

ever ready to assist aspiring entrepreneurs with expert advice from retired business executives, accountants, lawyers, non-profit specialists, and more.

The SBA also has services tailored specifically for veterans and service members including the Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan.

Other agencies that offer resources and support for ex-

isting and future veteran and reserve small business owners are the Center for Veterans Enterprise, State Veteran Administration Business Development Center, and the Veterans Administration Business Resource Center.

The first step is always the hardest step, but don't let the fear of the unknown stop you.

It didn't when you enlisted into the Air Force. It didn't when you attended and successfully completed basic training, and mandatory technical and professional development schools.

It didn't when you assumed greater responsibilities to support the mission of the 459 ARW. It shouldn't when you have been equipped with the skills, maturity, and discipline to pursue all of your dreams and open opportunities. Take the plunge!



"That's a Wrap" booth, owned by Tech. Sgt. Peggy Wilkins, 459th AMDS. (Courtesy photo).

and success from his communication company, First Stop Communications. After only a few years in business, Airman Boyd has already obtained competitive contracts for providing telephone rewiring and networking services. However, before success, he had to overcome his lack of knowledge regarding the start-up process and the research needed for writing proposals and contracts proved to be his more difficult challenges in the on-start.

Airman Boyd notes that the greatest benefits of being both a reservist and the owner of a small business are the networking opportunities as well as the technical and professional development training that has supplemented his small business career. His advice: "Make sure you have a specific goal for business services. Don't start too broad,

It's a privilege, not a right to drive on base



By 459th ARW Safety Office

The 459th Air Refueling Wing Safety Office has heard the complaint that some believe it's tough to find a legal parking space at the 459th ARW during UTA weekends. Every weekend numerous cars can be seen illegally parked. In reality, there are enough legal parking spaces.

From now on, parking tickets will be issued for all parking violations that include, parking in handicapped designated parking areas, parking in designated fire zones, parking on grass, double parking, etc. This ticket may be issued whether or not the operator is present.

Bottomline, tickets will be issued for those cars not parked in a legal, clearly marked parking space.

*On the first offense, Airmen will report to

their first sergeant with their ticket.

*On the second offense, Airmen will have to report to their group commander.

*On the third offense, the wing commander will revoke all base driving privileges.

On the positive side, tickets will not result in military or civilian monetary fines or point penalties. Airmen are encouraged to park in the overflow parking lot which is immediately north of building 3744 (459th AES), and in front of the building 3745 (recruiting office). The new parking lot in front of hangar 11 and the fuel cell also tend to have adequate parking.

As the parking rules start being enforced, all of us may find that we have to walk a few hundred yards to get to our office space. This may be inconvenient at times, however,

if we all adhere to the parking regulations the unit will benefit from the following results:

1. Access for emergency vehicles will be maintained
2. Less property damage will occur from vehicles that were legally parked backing into those that are illegally parked
3. The potential for pedestrians to get hurt by having to walk through illegally parked vehicles is reduced.

We have identified risks and hazards associated with illegal parking. Ticketing and compliance will mitigate these risks. Wouldn't you feel awful if there were physical or property damage experienced by you or your friend when it could have been 100 percent preventable?

The buddy system works for lodging too

By Maj. Steve Richards
459th Services Flight commander

There's an old military saying that says, "A buddy can save your life!" Applying that great lesson to our lodging program we now need the buddy system. Lodging is the largest and most popular morale program offered by the 459th Air Refueling Wing.

In addition to being large and popular, it is also very expensive to administer. On-base lodging opportunities have decreased due to construction leaving our lodging budget stretched to the limit. Given that the financial constraints are here to stay, we have to be flexible to keep this valued program active.

Effective January 2006, members in the grades E1-E6 will be required to share a lodging room during the UTA. Units have provided the 459th Services Flight with lists of personnel and their preferred roommates.

All attempts will be made to accommodate these preferences. But, please note that being lodged with your preferred roommate is not guaranteed. However, every effort will be made to pair members with persons from the same unit or group, if necessary.

All members are expected to make their UTA reservation by the established deadline. Rooms that aren't reserved by the deadline will be released back to the hotels. Therefore, a form 40A for UTA lodging will no longer be accepted once the reservation deadline expires.

The member is ultimately responsible for canceling his or her reservation. Should you need to cancel, we urge you to do so as early as possible by contacting our team at (240) 857-2775. Failing to cancel lodging reservations wastes limited funds and can result in the indefinite revocation of lodging privileges.

Lastly, we are also making changes to the "straddle stay" process that we initiated last year. The term "straddle stay" refers to times where a member is in manday status before or after the UTA, but wants to be lodged in the same room as their UTA reservation. Last year, you would have to make a straddle stay reservation with Gateway Inn and call our phone system for the UTA portion. Effective January 2006, both the straddle stay and UTA lodging requests can be booked as one reservation using our phone system.

As with reservations for UTA, the straddle stay reservation must be made before the reservation deadline for the UTA. We aspire to provide you Air Force Reserve Command's number one wing with top-notch customer focused service. Should you have any questions or concerns contact Master Sgt. Crystal Johnson at (240) 857-2775.

Change of Command . . .



Lt. Col. Charles Musser accepts a congratulatory handshake from Lt. Col. Barry Jones, 459th Maintenance Squadron commander, after assuming command of the 759th Logistics Readiness Flight Jan. 28, while Capt. Bruce Carper, 459th Communications Flight commander, awaits his turn. Lt. Col. Musser is holding his daughter, Emily. (Photo by Capt. Tim Smith).

Capt. Bruce Carper accepts command of the 459th Communications Flight from 459th Mission Support Group Commander, Col. Winona Cason, during a change of command ceremony Jan. 28. Capt. Carper was previously the 459th Mission Support Group executive officer. (Photo by Capt. Tim Smith).

ART Spotlight

Job Title:
Chief, Personnel Systems

Duties: *Program manager for the wing's personnel data systems, and design and develop products and listings for the MPF and the wing..*

Length of employment with the 459th ARW:
Five years.



Master Sgt. Selda Murphy

What would be your most dreaded job? *Being prior Army, I've had many occupations, so I don't have problems adapting and trying new experiences. But if I had to choose a dreaded job, it would be a librarian, because there is no way I can keep my mouth shut for eight hours.*

Personal Hobbies:
I am a single parent. So all of my hobbies, collections and sports revolve around my two kids. My main focus is my spirituality, so most of my hobbies outside of my children would be church related.

Airman of the Year



SrA Temitope Ogunfiditimi
NCO of the Year



TSgt. Bobby Robinson

SNCO of the Year



MSgt. Steven Byer

Nominees

SSgt. (SrA) Nicole Baird
SrA Rebecca Diaz
SrA Holly Gaines
SrA Temitope Ogunfiditimi
SSgt. (SrA) Nicholas Pilant
SrA James Roe
SrA Tiffany Simmons

Nominees

TSgt. Wilfred Elliott
SSgt. Bernard Horton
TSgt. Jeffrey Lawrence
TSgt. Jennifer Norman
TSgt. Devon Paul
TSgt. Bobby Robinson
SSgt. Marisol Salgado
TSgt. Brian Stanforth

Nominees

MSgt. Diana Archer
MSgt. Stephen Bedell
MSgt. Steven Byer
CMSgt. Donald Ellington
MSgt. Pamela Kauffman
SMSgt. Sonja Kelley
MSgt. Colon McCall
MSgt. Shayne Sewell
SMSgt. Gregory Spratt
TSgt. Carlos Torres

First Annual



First Sergeant of the Year



MSgt. Kenneth Curry

Nominees

MSgt. Kenneth Curry
MSgt. Bruce Green
MSgt. Clifford Schindler

Awards Banquet



Excellence in Aviation



CMSgt. Tony Parris

Nominees (Category 1)

Elaine Foster
Caroline Holland
Lynn Redmond
Sherice Robertson

Civilian of the Year



Ms. Elaine Foster

Civilian of the Year



Capt. Timothy Bourdeau

CGO of the Year



1st Lt. Kinda Eastwood

Nominees

Capt. Timothy Bourdeau
Capt. Keith Vogan
2nd Lt. Kinda Eastwood

Security Forces adds new fire power to its arsenal

By Capt. Nikki Credic
Wing Public Affairs

The 459th Security Forces Squadron added some new fire power to its arsenal, and this weapon is fit to fight.

"The M-4 is compatible to Security Forces' mission to become a light fighter with maximum fire power and versatility to ensure mission success and accomplishment," said Tech. Sgt. Robert Reed, 459th Superintendent of Combat Arms Training and Maintenance Operations.

The squadron received the M-4 in January replacing the M-16A2.

According to Master Sgt. Chester Taplette, 459th Expeditionary Combat Skills Instructor, the two weapons are similar, but the M-4 has some advantages.

"The M-4 shares over 80 percent commonality with the M-16A2," he explained, "but the M-4's collapsing stock and shortened barrel make it a lighter more versatile weapon system, and its length allows for easier movement within confined areas such as vehicles."

The weapon's standout feature is its attached electronic optic lens, the M68 Close Combat Optic, which reflects a red dot, unseen by the target but aligned with the path of the bullet.

"It [the M-4] allows the incorporation of attached electronic and advanced optics as well as other mission capable attachments," said Sergeant Reed.

Only security forces members are receiving the training on



the M-4, which consist of a tactical rifle qualification course of fire, according to Sergeant Reed.

"The training will be complete by April 2006," he said.

Sergeant Taplette explained that if there are any challenges during the training it would be due to the M68. But he said Airmen would soon find the advantages of using the lens.

"The M68 Close Combat Optic will be the challenge for most. The Airmen who qualified with the M16A2 were always instructed to focus the dormant eye on the iron sights and told to close or squinted the non-dormant eye to gain sight picture," Taplette said. "Unfortunately, this method leaves the shooter the inability to observe the surrounding area other than the sights and target."

"The M68 was designed to allow the shooter to use a heads-up method and both eyes open posture. The change allows the shooter to view everything within line of sight and peripheral vision giving a tactical advantage."

The 459th Security Forces Squadron is not the only unit receiving the M-4. "All Air Force Reserve Security Forces along with our active duty counterparts are implementing this weapon system," said Sergeant Reed. "Other units utilizing the M-4 are Air Force Special Operations, EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) teams, and TACPs (Tactical Air Control Parties)."

Sergeant Reed believes the transition from the M-16A2 to the M-4 is an excellent move.

"I believe the M-4 will enhance security forces mission operations and capabilities due to its limited weight and size," he said. "This weapon system allows the incorporation of numerous tactical related items and equipment in a combat environment and will be used to a great extent."

M-4 Rifle Facts

-5.56mm, lightweight, air cooled, magazine fed, gas operated, shoulder fired weapon

-Length: Buttstock closed 29.75 inches, opened 33 inches.

-Weight: 7.5 pounds with 30-round magazine

-Cycle rate of fire: 700-970 rounds per minute

-Maximum effective range: Individual/point target: 1,625 feet, area target: 1,950 feet



Tech. Sgt. Robert Reed, 459th SFS, points out the M68 reflex sight located on the top of the M4. (Photo by Capt. Nikki Credic).



459 ASTS

SrA Jermaine Johnson and SrA Michael Treut were awarded “expert” marksman for their performance during M-16 training at the February 2006 drill.

SrA Holly Gaines was nominated for Wing Airman of the Year.

TSgt Devon Paul was nominated for Wing NCO of the Year.

MSgt Colon McCall was nominated for Wing Sr NCO of the Year.

Capt. Keith Vogan was nominated for Wing Company Grade Officer of the Year.

Maj. Deborah Johnson, CASF Nurse, received a unique birthday present this year. Her grandson, Nicholas, was born at Elmendorf AFB Hospital in Anchorage, Alaska on her birthday (Feb. 23).

Through the efforts of Maj. Judy Ford, the 459th ARW has been designated as an official training site for the American Heart Associations’ Basic Life Support Course.

459th ARW (Wing Staff)

459th Commander: We’re having our first annual awards banquet this weekend!

459th Vice Commander: Thanks to Maj. Stan Jaicks for cleaning up the OPLAN 8044 concerns.

459th Executive Officer: Capt. Melisa Vines had the pleasure of working with Lt. Col. Francis Dooher at the Senior Leaders/Reserve Officers Association conference downtown, great professionalism, appreciate all the support.

459th Command Chief: Thanks for sharing your enlisted with me during the February UTA enlisted call.

459th Management Analyst: Lt. Col. Cathy Carter graduated from the personnel and manpower school.

459th Safety Office: MSgt Tim Saucier is going to be part of a safety steering committee at AFRC. Lt. Col. Chuck Thibault’s last safety report was commented the “best safety report ever written” by a unit in Grand Forks.

459th Legal Office: TSgt Tracey Kahn graduated from the Paralegal School.

459th Finance Office: We are still available to help people out during the UTA if they are having problems with “myPay.” For the last couple of pre-UTA staff meetings, Mr. John Downey has briefed that FM staff are working really hard on improving customer support, they have done it; good job! SSgt. Claire Brom shot “expert” with the 9MM handgun during firearms training in February.

459th Command Post: SSgt. Rizzo graduated from the command and control school.

459th Public Affairs Office: TSgt. Shirley Wilson received a cash award for outstanding performance at her civilian job at the Department of Corrections in Virginia. MSgt. Shayne Sewell shot “expert” with the 9MM handgun during firearms training in February. MSgt. Shayne Sewell was nominated for SNCO of the Year for the 459th ARW.

459th Recruiting Squadron: Thanks for all the unit’s assistance in filling-in vacant positions.

459th Chaplain’s Office: TSgt. Rod Branch’s son represented 8th graders at his school in a Black History debate.

459th AMDS

The first floor of Malcolm Grow Medical Center will be the permanent home of physical examinations starting in March. Everything will be done in the building, including dental.

459th MSG

Col. Winona Cason loves her job and thanks to all of her commanders and command support staff. Maj. Jeri Lahmann is leaving the wing, but will stay as a traditional reservist.

459th CF: Acquired \$15K worth of equipment for our direct training program.

459th SVS: Few of our folks are performing annual tour at Langley AFB and one is supporting Dover AFB for 90 days.

459th CES: We have one new ART and one new airman in the squadron. We were involved in building a facility in Nevada for the Native Americans.

459th SFS: We’re happy to announce we have new CATM instructors to provide training.

459th MSF: The MPF participated in the Armed Forces Retirement Home visit. Due to the many open positions in the MPF, folks were switched around.

69th APS: Maj. Janet Hagadorn graduated from the logistics readiness officer school.

459th MXG

Our third annual MXG awards ceremony was held during the February UTA.

459th MOF: 1st Lt. Ryan Webster (an Air Force Academy graduate) will be the acting commander while Maj. Dan Schneider is at the Squadron Commander’s Course.

459th MXS: CMSgt. Frank Lamneck is back from deployment.

459th OG

OG filled their secretary vacancy. Maj. Andre Boyd will be helping out with OPLAN 8044.

756th ARS: Thanks to the MPF for providing the CSS training, it helped us out with OPRs.



Letter to Airmen

Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force

13 Feb 06

United States Air Force Core Values

I continue to be honored to serve with you as Secretary of this great Air Force. Whether on the ground, in air or space, or on the new frontier of cyberspace – and whether you wear uniforms or civilian clothes – you respond to daily challenges that embody our core values of *Integrity First*, *Service Before Self*, and *Excellence in All We Do*.

These core values reflect the values we share from the moment we take our oath to support and defend the constitution. We must continue to reflect on these values, linked in that oath. Sharing my thoughts in this note is part of that ongoing process.

Integrity First reminds us we must “walk the talk” – our words and actions must be integrated in our lives. It reminds us of Thomas Jefferson’s concept of moral muscles – that we build and strengthen our character through the daily exercise of words, actions, and decisions. *Integrity first* means not only physical courage, but moral courage as well, so that we sometimes stand up by speaking up. It means being loyal to our friends, to each other – by being loyal to our oath, our Air Force, and our Nation.

Service Before Self is not the same as “service,” a value also claimed by some civilian institutions and corporations. Our Service requires sacrifice and commitment to our Nation. We understand we make decisions in an environment where freedoms are on the line, and lives are at stake. *Service Before Self* begins with duty, but it means more. It means that, in our Air Force, as we fly and fight in war and peace, going above and beyond the call of duty is not the exception – it is the rule.

Excellence in All We Do reminds us, at the most basic level, of the old “Hometown Newspaper Test” – imagining our parents reading about our actions, and wanting them to be proud. But it also includes the military concept of honor – knowing our actions reflect on all Airmen – and on the Air Force itself. It reminds us that we stand on the shoulders of giants: heroes like Billy Mitchell and Doolittle, Spaatz, and Rickenbacker; heroes who faced and beat incredible odds. We have inherited a history of excellence, courage, and greatness. We must live up to that heritage, become part of it, and pass it on.

All Airmen are men and women of character. Our enduring Air Force Core Values provide a touchstone as we rise to meet current and future challenges, threats, and opportunities. As America’s Airmen, it is imperative that we maintain the moral high ground – our nation depends on it. I thank all of you for your contributions and sacrifices. I salute you!

Michael W. Wynne
Michael W. Wynne

ARPC expands customer support for drilling reservists

DENVER (AFPN) — Air Reserve Component members can now speak to an Air Reserve Personnel Center customer service representative the first weekend of each month from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. MST.

This enhanced customer service step gives drilling reservists the flexibility to speak with a customer service representative to help resolve personnel issues during their primary unit training assembly, which typically occurs the first weekend of every month.

Reservists who still aren’t able to call ARPC are encouraged to log on to the virtual Personnel Center Guard and Reserve, a 24/7 customer service Web portal operated by ARPC at arpc.afrc.af.mil/support/default.asp. Airmen will have to answer a few questions to establish an account.

Air Force Implements New Cell Phone Restriction

The Air Force implemented a new cell phone restriction for drivers beginning in February. Drivers are not allowed to talk on their cell phones while driving on any Air Force installations without a hands free device. This policy is part of the Department of Defense’s Joint Traffic Guidance.

This restriction also applies to all government owned vehicles, or GOVs, at all times.

“This is really a cooperative effort for everyone from the base populace to the base leaders,” said Master Sgt. Gloria Ornelas, the superintendent of law enforcement for Air Force Security Forces. “I think it is long overdue. The DOD recognized that, and we are now in line with what some states and municipalities are doing to create a safer environment for drivers.”

New rules to reinforce Guard, Reserve re-employment protections

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is lauding the Labor Department announcement issuing rules clarifying re-employment rights for citizen-soldiers.

They said this is a major step forward for guardsmen, reservists and their civilian employers.

Labor Secretary Elaine Chao announced final rules interpreting the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Act that helps ensure job security for reserve-component members returning to civilian life from military duty. The rules will be published today in the Federal Register.

Speaking at the National Press Club in Washington, Ms. Chao said this is the first time since the law’s passage in 1994 that regulations have been developed to enforce it.

The rules are particularly critical now, she said, when the United States has the largest

group of mobilized guardsmen and reservists since World War II. Since 9-11, almost 530,000 reserve-component people have been mobilized, many for more than a year of duty.

The new rules, drafted in an easy-to-read question-and-answer format, explain how the USERRA law protects against discrimination and retaliation because of military service and prevents servicemembers from job setbacks from performing their military obligations. The law also ensures that guardsmen and reservists have ample time to report back to their civilian jobs after completing their military duty.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, DC

23 FEB 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR AF/RE AND AFRC PERSONNEL

FROM: HQ USAF/RE
1150 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC 20330-1150

SUBJECT: Diversity in the Air Force Reserve

Diversity optimizes the unique abilities of all Citizen Airmen to sustain our competitive advantage at home and in the expeditionary environment. A new era of asymmetric threats and uncertainty requires all of us to tap into individual talents and abilities to better improve performance and mission success. Achieving mission success means producing our distinctive air, space and cyberspace capabilities and sovereign options.

21st Century warfighting requires Citizen Airmen to operate beyond individual cultural perspectives and functional mindsets. Our diversity of culture, background, education, problem-solving ability, civilian work experience and creativity are strategic enablers. Strategic enablers provide the United States Air Force Reserve an unmatched and lethal capability. These attributes, integrated with cutting-edge technology and weapon systems, help us pursue excellence and enhance coalition and joint warfighting. Cutting-edge technology alone does not win wars. Capabilities and their effects emerge only when commanders and leaders, deliver on the combined competencies and abilities of Airmen.

To develop these effects, I expect leaders at all levels to establish high performance standards, facilitate preparation and create opportunities for all Citizen Airmen to fully contribute to mission success. If there are questions concerning AFR diversity policy, please contact CMSgt D. Jean Jackson, HQ USAF/REPX, DSN 425-6062.

John A. Bradley
JOHN A. BRADLEY
Lieutenant General, USAF
Chief of Air Force Reserve

NEWCOMERS

Lt. Col. Susan Vansteenkiste
Maj. Teresa Yellody-Haley
Capt. Elizabeth Barlow
Master Sergeant Todd Cory
Tech. Sgt. Augustin Casis
Tech. Sgt. Balkis Walker

459th AMDS
459th ASTS
459th AES
459th SFS
69th APS
459th ASTS

Staff Sgt. Kenyatta Stevenson
Senior Airman Benjamin Dilworth
Senior Airman Patrick Jones
Senior Airman Bhuneshwari Singh
Senior Airman Paige Williams
Airman First Class Monica Eusebio
Airman Basic Aline Casaverde

459th MSF
459th CES
459th AMDS
459th ASTS
756th ARS
459th AES
69th APS

459th Maintenance Group Yearly Award Winners



Photo by Master Sgt. Shayne Sewell

(Back Row)

(Front Row)

SNCO Maintenance Professional of the Year MXS

Senior Master Sgt. Richard Kauffman

Golden Eagle Award

Senior Master Sgt. John Hubble

NCO Maintenance Professional of the Year AMXS

Tech. Sgt. Carlos Torres

Airman Support Professional of the Year

Senior Airman Brandon Leniart

Airman Maintenance Professional of the Year MXS

Senior Airman James Gomez

Dedicated Crew Chief of the Year

Tech. Sgt. Trenton Holmes

(Not shown)

Outstanding Support Person of the Year

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gregory Havrilak

Civilian of the Year

Ms. Marie Gonzalez

Officer of the Year

1st. Lt. Kinda Eastwood

Airman Maintenance Professional of the Year AMXS

Senior Airman Dana Smith

NCO Support Professional of the Year

Tech. Sgt. Tonya Smith

SNCO Maintenance Professional of the Year

Master Sgt. Kenneth Curry

SNCO Maintenance Professional of the Year AMXS

Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Leonardis

Chaplain at our service

During Chaplain Havrilak's deployment and until his return I'll be serving you as the acting wing chaplain, Chaplain Kenneth "Chappie" Moore! Any projects, concerns, spiritual needs, and counseling that you may have, please do not hesitate to call on me. I am here to serve you and your wingmen. I will be available through the command post, government email, cell phone (202-498-0444) and every Thursday, I'll be at the wing. It is my goal to provide you with the same quality services as you have in the past. I look forward to serving you in the absence of Chaplain Havrilak.

459th Retirees Giving Back

Members of the Reserve Retiree Affairs Office met in February to discuss a number of issues to include retirement points, TriCare, and medical records. Their mission is to assist members who are planning to retire and prepare them for life after the military. Right now the office has seven members, and it is always seeking new ones. For more information or to join, email Jennifer.Hutcherson@andrews.af.mil.

Official Air Force Photo

The 89th Multimedia Center will be open on Saturday, 25 Mar at 0800-0930 to take Official AF Photos of recently appointed commanders, recently promoted commanders, First Sgts, and Annual Award recipients. Please show in your service dress at Bldg 1535, D Wing, Rm 101 (POC: SSgt Caroline Holland, 7-7119). If you would rather take your picture during the week, please contact the 89th photo lab directly, at 301-981-5776 to schedule an appointment.

Ceremonial Marching Practice to Begin

The 459th MSG is holding a ceremonial marching practice on 26 March 06, 1300-1500 between the fuel cell and Hangar 11. Those that signed up with their unit commanders at the February UTA are required to attend. We also need about 50 more people so its not too late — We will be building the contact/recall lists. Please wear service dress, slacks, low quarter shoes, overcoat, flight cap, black gloves and gray scarf.

Spouse Orientation and Kids Warrior Day

Spouse Orientation and Kids Warrior Day will be held Saturday, April 29. This day is tailored just for spouses and kids. Spouses will have an inside look at the mission of the 459th ARW with a few briefings on military entitlements, a luncheon and an aircraft tour. Kids will enjoy a day of fun with an inside peek of what mom and dad go through for a deployment. The junior members will be able to experience a mobility processing line, receive an aircraft tour, and get an up close look at a fire engine. Advanced reservations are required. When making a reservation, please provide the names and ages of children. Reservations will be accepted for both the spouse orientation and the kids day until COB April 14. E-mail Jennifer.Hutcherson@andrews.af.mil. Space is limited; sign up early.

Vacancy in Family Support Center

The Family Support Center is looking for a highly motivated member to join their team.

- *TR position (SSgt or above)
- *Packages due Saturday, Mar UTA
- *Last 3 EPRs
- *Resumes (military and civilian), if available
- *Current CC recommendation

Interviews held Sunday, Mar UTA. Excellent communication and customer service skills. Please contact Master Sgt. Jennifer Hutcherson at (240) 857-7048, if interested.

Immunization Rotation

You don't have to drive across the base to get your shots, strike teams are coming to you! The 459th AMDS will provide immunizations in your squadron area Saturday of the April UTA.

459th MXG	Hangar 10	8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
459th OG	Hangar 10	8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
459th OSF	Hangar 10	8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
756th ARS	Bldg. 3613	10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
459th OSF	Bldg. 3613	10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
69th APS	Bldg. 3623	11 a.m. to noon
459th CES	Bldg. 3756	noon to 1 p.m.
459th MSF	Bldg. 3755	1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
459th CF	Bldg. 3755	1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
459th LRF	Bldg. 3755	1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
459th SFS	Bldg 3766	2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
459th SVS	Bldg TBD	3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

PAY DAYS

Pay days will no longer be published in The Boomer. Call the finance office for pay questions at (240) 857-0314/0315.

Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
UTA Sat., 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Closed UTA Sun.

Office: (240) 857-0314/0315
Easy Pay Access: 1-800-755-7413

FY 2006 UTA SCHEDULE

March 25-26, Alt 11-12
April 29-30, Alt 15-16
May 13-14, No Alt
June 24-25, No Alt
July 29-30, Alt 15-16
Aug. 26-27, Alt 12-13 ORI
Flyaway, Aug 21-27
Sep 23-24, Alt 9-10

Fire! Fire! Fire!



Photos by Master Sgt. Shayne Sewell

(Top photo) A crash truck unit arrives on site of the live firepit modulator loaded with 459th Air Refueling Wing firefighters to practice live simulated firefighting techniques.

Donned in their protective suits, Staff Sgt. Manoel Robinson, Staff Sgt. John Merson, Staff Sgt. Michael Englehardt, Senior Airman Matthew Prince, and Senior Airman David Snyder, work as a cohesive unit to fight a simulated fire in the flight deck and passenger compartment of the pitfire training modulator located on Andrews Air Force Base. The controlled fire burns as hot as 2000 degrees inside the cockpit.



459TH AIR REFUELING WING
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ANDREWS AFB MD 20762-4814
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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Permit No. 4004